

CITY OF HELENA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
April 19, 2010
6:00 P.M.

- Time & Place*** A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, 316 N. Park Avenue, Helena, Montana.
- Members Present*** Mayor Smith indicated for the record that Commissioners Cartwright and Ellison were present. Commissioners Elsaesser and Thweatt were excused. City Manager Ron Alles, City Attorney David Nielsen and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown were present. Others present were Dan Bernhardt representing the Helena Citizens Council.
- Pledge of Allegiance*** Mayor Smith asked those persons present to please stand and join him in the pledge of allegiance.
- Minutes*** The minutes of the regular City Commission meeting of April 5, 2010 were approved as submitted.
- Proclamation*** PROCLAMATION:
A. Arbor Day
- Mayor Smith read the Arbor Day Proclamation and presented it to Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden. Director Teegarden gave an overview of Arbor Day activities in the City of Helena. She reported the Parks Department will also be kicking off its urban tree inventory and consequent management plan this summer, funded by a grant from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Commissioner Cartwright noted he was pleased to see the tree inventory getting underway.
- Presentation*** CONFIRMAITON OF PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS
Fire Chief Steve Larson introduced Firefighters Robert Bennet, Steve Finstad and Louis Menghini. Mayor Smith welcomed the three firefighters on behalf of the Commission and administered the Firefighter's Oath to them.
Firefighters Bennet, Finstad and Menghini expressed gratitude to the Commission and Fire Department staff and introduced their family members in attendance.
- Public Comment** Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.
- Motion** Commissioner Ellison moved confirmation of Firefighters Robert Bennet, Steve Finstad and Louis Menghini. Commissioner Cartwright seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.
- Consent Agenda*** CONSENT AGENDA:
A. Claims
B. Resolution providing the Commission Guide for FY2011 Annual Budget Development Res #19729
C. Engineering Services Agreement with Morrison-Maierle for utility relocation for the Custer Interchange Project
D. State bid for two new curb-to-curb passenger buses

City Manager Ron Alles recommended approval of the claims and the consent agenda.

Discussion

Commissioner Ellison asked item D be removed for further discussion.

Public Comment

Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Ellison moved approval of items A through C on the consent agenda. Commissioner Cartwright seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Item D

Commissioner Ellison asked for the level of grant funding related to the bus purchases. Fleet Manager Ed Robinson reported the buses are purchased with Federal Section 5310 funding which requires a 20% match by the city. The total bid is \$177,096 and the city's share is \$23,074. Commissioner Ellison referred to the advantages and notable energy impacts listed in the staff report and asked how much of a fuel consumption reduction could be expected. Manager Robinson stated he could not quantify the amount; however, the buses being purchased for replacement of the curb to curb buses are smaller in size and should reduce fuel consumption in the bus fleet operation.

Motion

Commissioner Cartwright moved approval of consent agenda item D. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Discussion

Commissioner Ellison noted he was hesitant to support the motion as it had not been discussed at an Administrative Meeting.

Communications

COMMUNICATIONS/PROPOSALS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cartwright asked citizens to water their trees and announced Trash for Trees would be held this Saturday, April 24, 2010 at Northgate Plaza from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

He noted he is very pleased with the thinning projects on Mount Helena and the look of the water tank.

Commissioner Cartwright also reported on a needed easement with Burlington-Northern Santa Fe/Montana Rail Link (BNSF/MRL) for Centennial Trail. City Manager Alles commented the Centennial Trail Master Plan has been accepted by the Commission and some nuances need to be worked out; one is an appropriate easement with BNSF/MRL which staff is prepared to work on. The standard easement would not be in the city's best interest. He noted CTEP discussions need to be held at the Commission level. City Attorney Nielsen spoke about BNSF/MRL's standard easement. Mayor Smith reiterated easement negotiations can start after the Commission makes some decisions on CTEP funding. Commissioner Cartwright encouraged work on the easement start as soon as possible.

Mayor Smith distributed a draft letter to the Historical Society Director Richard Sims and Historical Society Board President James Murry and asked for Commission concurrence to send the letter. There was concurrence to send the letter and Mayor Smith noted he would attend the Society Board meeting on Friday, April 23, 2010. The letter is included in the Commission packet as part of the official record.

Report of the City Attorney

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
No report was given.

Report of the City Manager

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER
City Manager Alles noted the preliminary budget presentation would be given on May 3, 2010.

Report from the Helena Citizens Council

REPORT FROM THE HELENA CITIZENS COUNCIL
HCC Chair Dan Bernhardt spoke of the Neighborhood Fair held in March and Global Youth Service Day on April 24, 2010.
He expressed concern that the proposed half-time position for the HCC and/or a fourth-year VISTA will not be funded in FY2011. He urged discussion of the HCC's role with the City of Helena and requested support of the coordinator position. City Manager Alles stated he is still working through the budget process; more in-depth discussions will be held during the Budget Work Sessions. Mayor Smith concurred with City Manager Alles.

Public Communications

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
No public communications were given.

Meetings of Interest

MEETINGS OF INTEREST
The next Administrative Meeting is April 28, 2010 and the next Commission Meeting is May 2, 2010.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Mayor James E. Smith

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Commission